

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 AGR-05 SSO-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 NSCE-00 ARAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7365

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR MEX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 152578

1. SUMMARY: FOR BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REASONS, MISSION HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PREPARE STRATEGY PAPER REQUESTED REFTEL. TO ASSIST PROGRAM PLANNERS WORKING ON BUDGET SUBMISSIONS, MISSION SUBMITS RECOMMENDED FY 1977 NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TOTALING DOLS 5,790,000, WITH ONE ADDITIONAL OPTION WHICH WOULD RAISE TOTAL TO DOLS 8,290,000 PENDING DISCUSSIONS WITH NEW MEXICAN ADMINISTRATION WHICH TAKES OFFICE DECEMBER ONE, EMBASSY SUGGESTS FY 1978 PROGRAM BE PROJECTED AT SAME LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION REGRETS THAT IT HAS NOT YET PREPARED THE FY 1977-1980 STRATEGY PAPER REQUESTED IN STATE 152578. THE GREAT NUMBER OF NARCOTICS-RELATED PERSONNEL CHANGES WITHIN THE MISSION REQUIRED THAT AVAILABLE RESOURCES BE CONCENTRATED ON PROGRAM CONTINUATION RATHER THAN ANALYSIS; MISSION WILL, HOWEVER, PROCEED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP
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A SUGGESTED NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY FOR THE COMING

YEARS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE UPCOMING CHANGE IN MEXICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN GOM VIEWS ON PROGRAM STRATEGIES BEYOND DECEMBER ONE. PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS PRIVATELY CONVEYED TO THE AMBASSADOR HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE NARCOTICS ISSUE AND HAS STATED THAT NARCOTICS CONTROL WILL REMAIN A HIGH-PRIORITY MEXICAN ISSUE. HOWEVER, THE PERSONALITIES OF THOSE CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND EFFECTS. THUS, WHATEVER STRATEGY THE MISSION DEVELOPS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL REMAIN AN ABSTRACTION UNTIL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SETTLES IN AND FOCUSES ON THE PROBLEM. FOR PRESENT, WE SUGGEST THAT MOST RECENT NCAP BE CONSIDERED CURRENT.

3. FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROGRAM REVIEW BY THE LATIN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE(LAINCC), THE MISSION SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FY 1977, BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN GOM POLICY OR PERSONNEL. IF FY 1978 ESTIMATES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRAM PURPOSES, WE SUGGEST THAT IDENTICAL AMOUNTS AND CATEGORIES BE PROJECTED FOR FY 1978 PENDING COMPLETION OF THE MISSION'S STRATEGY PAPER AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NEW MEXICAN ADMINISTRATION.

4. AVIATION PROGRAM.

(A) HELICOPTERS. ASSUMING NO NEW REQUIREMENTS, MISSION PROJECTS THE NEED FOR THREE BELL 212 AND TWO BELL 206 HELICOPTERS TO REPLACE ANTICIPATED LOSSES (DOLS 3.4 MILLION). IF SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF POPPY FIELDS ARE LOCATED IN NEW AREAS WITH GROWING CYCLES, IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN THE TRADITIONAL AREAS, THESE AIRCRAFT MAY BE REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO RATHER THAN AS REPLACEMENTS FOR EXISTING AIRCRAFT.

(B) RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT: MISSION RECOMMENDS PHASED REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CESSNA 185 AIRCRAFT DUE TO AGE OF FLEET AND TO OBTAIN AN AIRCRAFT MORE SUITABLE TO MOUNTAIN RECONNAISSANCE. AVIATION ADVISOR SUGGESTS EIGHT SINGLE-ENGINE TRICYCLE GEAR AIRCRAFT OF CESSNA 206 TYPE (DOLS 640,000).

(C) SPRAY EQUIPMENT. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DOLS 100,000 BE RESERVED FOR ADDITIONAL AND/OR REPLACEMENT MICROFOIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SIMPLEX EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING BOOMS, TANKS, AND OTHER COMPONENTS.

(D) PILOT TRAINING. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT PROFICIENCY TRAINING CONTINUE, BOTH AS REFRESHER TRAINING FOR PRESENT PERSONNEL AND AS STANDARDIZATION FOR NEW RECRUITS, AND SUGGESTS THAT DOLS 50,000 BE BUDGETED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

(E) MISCELLANEOUS. MISSION ANTICIPATES THE NEED FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AT THE NEW HANGAR AT CULIACAN, AT AN ES-

TIMATED COST OF DOLS 100,000.

5. REMOTE SENSING

(A) MULTI-SPECTRAL OPIUM POPPY SENSING SYSTEM(MOPSS).
ASSUMING THAT THE OPERATION OF ONE MOPSS SYSTEM BY AMERICAN
PERSONNEL DEMONSTRATES THAT MOPSS IS ENTIRELY ADEQUATE
FOR IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT
DOLS 100,000 BE PROGRAMMED FOR MOPSS SUPPORT (CONSUMMABLES,
MAINTENANCE, SPARES, ETC.), AND THAT NEXT YEAR WE OFFER
THE GOM HALF-AMERICAN STAFFING OF THE TWO MOPSS SYSTEMS
TO ENSURE THAT THE MEXICAN STAFF CAN OPERATE BOTH SYSTEMS
AT PEAK EFFICIENCY. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THREE U.S.
CONTRACT PERSONNEL AT EACH SYSTEM WOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND
ASSUME THAT IT WOULD COST NO THAN DOLS 500,000.

(B) ADVANCED SYSTEM: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE PROCEED
WITH FIELD TEST OF ADVANCED POPPY DETECTION SYSTEM SUCH
AS THOSE PROPOSED BY BENDIX AND DAEDALUS. MISSION
RECALLS THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH GOM CENTERED
AROUND FEBRUARY 1977 TARGET DATE FOR TEST. WE ESTIMATE
DOLS 250,000. (COMMENT: FEBRUARY 1977 WOULD BE IDEAL
TIME TO RUN TESTS AS SPECTRAL DATA CORPORATION (SDC) PER-
SONNEL WILL BE IN-COUNTRY OPERATING ONE MOPSS SYSTEM AND
ADVANCED SYSTEM WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT TO OUT-
PRODUCE MOPSS). IF ADVANCED SYSTEM DOES IN FACT PROVE
SUPERIOR, WE SUGGEST WE BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ONE ENTIRE
SYSTEM TO GOM TO SUBSTITUTE FOR TWO MOPSS SYSTEMS(DOLS
THREE MILLION, INCLUDING AERIAL PLATFORM, BUT
EXCLUDING ANY CREDIT FOR RETURNED MOPSS SYSTEMS AND
AIRCRAFT).

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6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE COST OF TECHNICIANS AND SPARES WILL NOT EXCEED DOLS 150,000.

7. COMPUTER SUPPORT. ASSUMING THE GOM DECIDES TO DEVELOP AN IN-HOUSE COMPUTER FACILITY, WE ESTIMATE THE COST OF SOFT-WARE AND TRAINING AT DOLS 250,000. (FUNDS TO ACQUIRE A COMPUTER ARE AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUS AGREEMENT DATED 29 JANUARY 1976).

8. DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM. BECAUSE OF GOM INTER-AGENCY RIVALRIES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS WITHDRAWN VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS ROADBLOCKS, FOR WHICH DETECTOR DOGS WERE ORIGINALLY REQUESTED. ASSUMING THE DOGS NOW IN COUNTRY AND BEING TRAINED IN THE U.S. CAN BE PUT TO USEFUL SERVICE, WE MAY WISH TO PROCEED WITH THE GOM SUGGESTION TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN MEXICO (DOLS 100,000).

9. REMOTE AIRPORT ANALYSIS. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT WE APPROACH GOM AGAIN ON IDEA OF STUDYING REMOTE AIRSTRIPS TO DEVELOP LEGITIMATE USE PROFILES THROUGH INSTALLATION OF REMOTE SENSING DEVICES. EVEN IF GOM DOES NOT ESTABLISH AN INTERDICTION CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO LANDINGS THAT DO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT CORRESPOND WITH LEGITIMATE PROFILE, THE INTELLIGENCE GAINED COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE USE TO U.S. AIR INTERDICTION TEAMS. WE ESTIMATE COST OF SEVERAL MONTH TEST AT DOLS 50,000.

10. SALARY SUPPLEMENTS. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE CONTINUE TO ASSIST GOM WITH SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ESSENTIAL TO ERADICATION EFFORT. AS THESE PERSONNEL ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE CAMPAIGN AND THEIR ABSENCE COULD UNDERMINE OUR ENTIRE EFFORT. (DOLS 100,000.) WE PLAN TO ENCOURAGE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION TO BUDGET ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR THIS NEED, BUT FEEL SUPPLEMENTS ESSENTIAL IN SHORT RUN.

11. COST SUMMARY:

(A) AVIATION,	HELICOPTERS	DOLS	3,400,000
	RECONNAISSANCE AC		640,000
	SPRAY EQUIPMENT		100,000

PILOT TRAINING	50,000
EQUIP HANGAR	100,000
(B) REMOTE SENSING, MOPSS	600,000
ADVANCED SYSTEM TEST	250,000
(C) TELECOMMUNICATIONS	150,000
(D) COMPUTER SUPPORT	250,000
(E) DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM	100,000
(F) REMOTE AIRPORT ANALYSIS	50,000
1G) SALARY SUPPLEMENTS	100,000
(H) RECOMMENDED PROGRAM TOTAL	5,790,000

(I) NOTE: IF ADVANCED REMOTE SENSING SYTEM PROVES MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MOPSS, ABOVE TOTAL SHOULD BE INCREASED BY DOLS 2.5 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTS THE COST OF ONE NEW ADVANCED SYSTEM LESS THE COST OF SHARED OPERATION OF TWO MOPSS SYSTEMS BY U.S. PERSONNEL (PARA 5-A ABOVE).

12. THIS RECOMMENDED PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE FUNDS FOR ACTIVITIES FUNDED FROM WASHINGTON SUCH AS DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS, REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEA TDY PERSONNEL DURING ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, OR SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT PERSONNEL.

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